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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FREIGHT TRAFFIC RECORDS SET
BY U.S. RAILROADS

WASHINGTON, January 8, 1990 -- U.S. freight railroads set records in 1989 for ton-miles carried and for trailers and containers hauled in piggyback service, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

The railroads topped the one trillion mark in ton-miles for the second year in a row, reaching a record 1,003.4 billion, 0.3 percent above the record set in 1988 of 1,000.4 billion ton-miles.

At the same time, the number of trailers and containers carried totaled 5,949,098, a 2.9 percent increase over the 1988 record of 5,779,547 and the eighth straight record year for intermodal traffic.

Carloadings in the Christmas holiday week ended December 30 totaled 229,238, down 10.7 percent from the 1988 holiday week, and 21.0 percent below the preceding non-holiday week.

Carloadings originated were up 1.9 percent in the West but down 23.1 percent in the East, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, grain loadings were up 4,084 cars (19.7 percent). Coal loadings were down 8,540 cars (9.7 percent), and loadings of chemicals were off 5,112 cars (19.5 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the 52 weeks of 1989 totaled 17,260,811, down 1.7 percent from 1988.

(more)

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 85,656 trailers and/or containers for the holiday week ended December 30, down 2.0 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended December 30 totaled 13.1 billion, 9.7 percent below the comparable week of 1988.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 30, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 30, 1989	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	24,789	20,705	19.7 %	27,988	-11.4 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,640	2,171	-24.5	2,138	-23.3
Metallic Ores	17,423	21,383	-18.5	20,032	-13.0
Coal	79,620	88,160	-9.7	101,838	-21.8
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	6,568	7,602	-13.6	7,449	-11.8
Nonmetallic Minerals	5,990	7,629	-21.5	9,112	-34.3
Grain Mill Products	8,386	8,446	-.7	9,916	-15.4
Food & Kindred Products	6,421	6,232	3.0	8,486	-24.3
Primary Forest Products	5,604	7,146	-21.6	7,927	-29.3
Lumber & Wood Products	4,778	5,333	-10.4	6,485	-26.3
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	9,765	11,695	-16.5	9,446	3.4
Chemicals	21,115	26,227	-19.5	26,622	-20.7
Petroleum Products	3,733	4,321	-13.6	4,969	-24.9
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	6,125	7,371	-16.9	7,216	-15.1
Coke	5,411	5,441	-.6	5,148	5.1
Metals & Products	7,150	8,512	-16.0	8,170	-12.5
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	6,201	8,666	-28.4	14,953	-58.5
Waste & Scrap Materials	4,610	5,285	-12.8	6,699	-31.2
All Other Carloads	3,909	4,343	-10.0	5,641	-30.7
Total	229,238	256,668	-10.7 %	290,235	-21.0 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 30, 1989	1988	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 52 WEEKS ENDING DECEMBER 30, 1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	229,238	256,668	-10.7 %	17,260,811	17,554,753	-1.7 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	46,854	48,810	-4.0	3,453,972	3,481,020	-.8
Containers	38,802	38,577	.6	2,495,126	2,298,527	8.6
Total	85,656	87,387	-2.0	5,949,098	5,779,547	2.9
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	13.1	14.5	-9.7 %	1,003.3r	1,000.4	.3 %

r Cumulative 1989 ton-miles revised to reflect reported 3rd Quarter 1989 ton-miles, and revisions in Week 51, 1989, carloadings.

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for 52 weeks of 1989 and 1988.

	1989	1988	Incr./Decr. vs. 1989 vs. 1988	
	Cars	Cars	Cars	Percent
Grain	1,477,522	1,588,171	110,649	-7.0
Farm products, Ex. Grain	96,524	117,433	20,909	-17.8
Metallic ores	1,002,981	980,669	22,312	2.3
Coal	6,360,432	6,259,661	100,771	1.6
Crushed stone, sand & gravel	772,100	810,086	37,986	-4.7
Nonmetallic minerals	507,500	529,274	21,774	-4.1
Grain mill products	515,159	529,558	14,399	-2.7
Food & kindred products	452,315	467,626	15,311	-3.3
Primary forest products	472,050	507,683	35,633	-7.0
Lumber & wood products	338,944	377,196	38,252	-10.1
Pulp,paper & allied products	540,469	568,234	27,765	-4.9
Chemicals	1,414,220	1,384,229	29,991	2.2
Petroleum products	262,037	256,384	5,653	2.2
Stone, clay & glass products	523,311	536,334	13,023	-2.4
Coke	287,951	297,161	9,210	-3.1
Metals & products	489,708	528,106	38,398	-7.3
Motor vehicles & equipment	958,083	984,309	26,226	-2.7
Waste & scrap materials	440,373	471,912	31,539	-6.7
All other carloads	349,132	360,727	11,595	-3.2
Total Cars Loaded	17,260,811	17,554,753	293,942	-1.7

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

	1989	1988	% Change
First quarter	249.2	246.7	1.0
Second quarter	254.6	250.6	1.6
Third quarter	251.1	249.1	0.8
Fourth quarter	248.4	254.0	-2.2
Year	1,003.3	1,000.4	0.3

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